Engaging Writing Students in Critical Inquiry Jill Cargile and Rohini Parikh, TAA November 25, 2006

"Textual Analysis and Read Around Workshop" Procedures

- Facilitator selects and distributes a rich, thought-provoking text that will generate a lively group discussion.
- Participants read the text silently to themselves and annotate parts of the text that are interesting or important or difficult. Participants use the "Textual Analysis Chart" to record and analyze key passages from the text.
- Starting at the beginning of the text, the facilitator or a participant reads the first one or two paragraphs aloud. (Length is determined by the facilitator.)
- Then, using evidence from the text, the participant explains and interprets the
 passage and provides any significant annotations or ideas he/she has on the
 passage.
- Then, other participants comment on the first participant's annotations and comments, and then share their own annotations or comments on that specific passage. The procedure continues until the entire text has been analyzed.
- The group discussion should include an analysis of the major themes, ideas, and characters as well as an analysis of key paragraphs, sentences, and grammar and vocabulary concepts.
- Facilitator can ask questions to focus in on a word, idea, or theme. At the end of the Workshop, group participants offer other strategies they would use to teach this text (or one like it) in their own classes.
- Discussion is restricted to the selection that everyone has read, and all opinions must be supported with evidence from the text. Thus, everyone can determine whether facts are accurately recalled and opinions adequately supported.
- Support for opinions should be found within the selection. Participants may introduce outside opinions only if they can restate the opinions in their own words and support the ideas with evidence from the selection. This rule encourages participants to read carefully and think for themselves.